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SC REFUSES TO STOP CCI PROBE AGAINST FLIPKART, AMAZON

The apex court on Monday rejected the e-commerce majors' plea against the Competition Commission of India's anti-trust probe

'BIG FIRMS MUST VOLUNTEER TO FACE INQUIRY'

The SC said challenging the inquiry is like wanting a notice before the registration of an FIR. "We expect big organisations like Amazon and Flipkart to offer themselves for the inquiry, and you do not want that. You have to submit and inquiry has to be permitted," said the three-member bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana

COMPLYING WITH ALL RULES: E-COMM FIRMS

- Last month, the Karnataka HC had dismissed pleas by Amazon and Flipkart seeking to quash the CCI's 2020 investigation. Following this, the companies moved the SC
- Amazon and Flipkart on Monday said they are in compliance with all rules and will extend full cooperation to the CCI probe | **P10**

4 weeks
TIME GIVEN FOR AMAZON AND FLIPKART TO JOIN THE CCI PROBE

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

OBC Bill boards Oppn, averts full House washout

BJP issues whip to party MPs to remain present in both Houses to ensure passage

MANISH ANAND @ New Delhi

AFTER weeks of disruption, the Lok Sabha on Monday witnessed brief order when Union minister Virendra Kumar rose to introduce the politically sensitive 127th Constitution Amendment Bill, which seeks to restore the power of the states to prepare their own lists of OBCs.

The Bill is likely to be taken for discussion and passage on Tuesday. The BJP has issued whip to party MPs to remain present in both Houses to ensure its passage. Being a Constitution amendment Bill, it requires order in the House as well as two-thirds of the members present voting in its favour.

For the rest of the day, the Opposition continued vociferous protests while the governemnt pushed three more legislations – The Limited Liability Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2021, The Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2021, and The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

The Opposition sought to be heard on the Bill concerning the scheduled tribes, with MPs Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and Manish Tewari (Congress), Sudeep Bandyopadhyay (TMC), T R Baalu (DMK), and Supriya Sule (NCP) seeking the right to speak. They argued that the Bill shouldn't be passed hurriedly in the din and accused the government of carrying out the legislative business even while the House isn't in order.

127TH CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL

- Articles amended – 338B, 342A, 366
- Clauses inserted: Central List means the list prepared & maintained by the Centre for its own purposes
- States, UTs may prepare separate lists for own purposes, different from Central List
- Inserting Clause 26C to state socially and educationally backward classes means such backward classes under Article 342A for the purposes of the Centre, states & UTs
- Central List was unveiled in 1993
- The Constitution (102) Amendment Act, 2018 provided for the Constitutional status to the National Backward Commission, which led to the judicial interpretation that only Centre can prepare the OBC list

EXPRESS READ

US, China clash at UNSC meeting chaired by India

United Nations: The US and China clashed during a high-level meeting on maritime security chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday. While Washington accused Beijing of advancing its unlawful maritime claims in the South China Sea, the latter said the US was making "irresponsible remarks" | **P9**

GRAND WELCOME, CHAOS AT AIRPORT

CHOPRA BIGGEST ATTRACTION

A smiling gold medallist Neeraj Chopra was the centre of attraction on Monday. He was mobbed by the crowd as soon as he stepped out of the airport. There was chaos all around as supporters jostled to catch a glimpse of Olympic medallists or take selfies. Personal distancing meant nothing to them

FELICITATION CEREMONY

The podium finishers were then felicitated during a ceremony at a private hotel. The medallists were presented mementos and shawls by Sports Minister Anurag Thakur

SINDHU, MIRABAI NOT PRESENT

Silver medallist Mirabai Chanu and bronze medallist P V Sindhu missed the ceremony as they had arrived earlier and are currently at their home bases | **P17**

State to check kids' health to fight wave 3

K SHIVA KUMAR @ Mysuru

CHIEF Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Monday ordered officials of the health and women and child welfare department to conduct health checkups of children at all government schools and to boost their immunity as experts have warned of a higher impact of the Covid third wave on children.

He said that local primary health centre doctors and staff will conduct health checkups of children between the ages of six and 16, while the staff of the women and child welfare department will provide nutritious food to malnourished children.

After chairing a review meeting on Covid here, Bommai said that the health department staff will also be conducting follow-up health checkups every fortnight as there are reports that 40 per cent of the State's children are suffering from malnourishment.

On Covid-prevention measures, he said that the government is strictly screening passengers along interstate borders and letting in only those who have negative RT-PCR report.

The health staff will work in three shifts at entry points of Mysuru district as the number of people on transit in the district is the highest after Bengaluru, he added.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai arrives in Mysuru, where he chaired a Covid review meeting, on Monday | UDAYSHANKAR S

Bommai said the government has sought more vaccines and is trying to vaccinate 1.5 crore people per month covering five lakh per day.

"We have directed eight border district administrations to vaccinate all the people within 10 km of the inter-state border and to increase testing in these areas," he said.

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Dr DEVI SHETTY PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Provide multi-nutrient supplements, along with milk, to children aged 6 months to 6 years and also for schoolchildren as part of Ksheera Bhagya

The Ksheera Bhagya programme should be extended to include Anganwadi children

Mid-day hot meal programme needs to be restarted on a war-footing after the lockdown is lifted

It is recommended that the government explore food fortification with rice, atta, edible oil, salt and milk. This can be done as per the guidelines of Food Fortification Resource Centre set up by FSSAI

Post-Covid recovery OPD centres should be developed at taluk/zone level for the early management of post-Covid complications, including MIS-C in children

KARNATAKA	AUG 8	AUG 9
Fresh cases	1,598	1,186
Recoveries	1,914	1,776
Deaths	20	24

99.99 pc pass SSLC, 157 score centum

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

OF 8,71,443 candidates who sat for the OMR-based SSLC exam – conducted under strict Covid guidelines last month – 99.99 per cent of students passed successfully. Only one student, who was caught indulging in malpractice through impersonation, failed.

Girls recorded a 99.99 pass percentage, while boys saw 100 per cent, revealed the SSLC results that were announced on Sunday. In all, 157 students secured 625 out of 625, 289 got 623, two got 622, 449 got 621 and 28 got 620. As some students would have suffered due to lack of access to digital education during the lockdown and pandemic, all students were passed. Thirteen students got 28 grace marks each.

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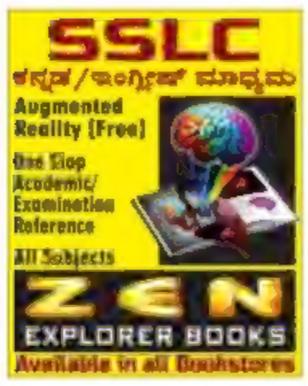

Def ministry didn't buy Pegasus. So, who did?

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

IN its first response to the Pegasus snoopgate controversy, the Ministry of Defence on Monday said it did not have any transaction with Israel-based NSO Group, which owns the spyware.

The clarification came from Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt in response to a question by CPI's Rajya Sabha member V Sivadasan. "Ministry of Defence has not had transaction with NSO Group technologies," he said in a statement.

Sivadasan had bundled the question along with others on expenditure incurred by the defence ministry. When the controversy first broke, Union IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had in Parliament dismissed media reports on the use of the software to snoop on Indians, saying the allegations were aimed at maligning Indian democracy.

With the defence ministry washing its hands of the military grade cyber weapon, the question is who procured it, since over 1,000 Indian mobile numbers were on the list of possible targets. Also, a few of the instruments were found infected by Pegasus. NSO is emphatic that it supplies its spyware only to verified and vetted governments to help them strengthen internal and external security.

Ministry of Defence has not had any transaction with NSO Group Technologies

Ajay Bhatt, Minister of State for Defence

Delhi BJP leader set to be arrested over hate speech

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

AFTER registering a case against unknown persons for raising anti-Muslim slogans at a protest site near Jantar Mantar, Delhi Police said late on Monday night that it will arrest former state BJP spokesperson Ashwani Upadhyay who had organised the event.

Delhi Police issued a statement saying, "Ashwani Upadhyay and others involved in yesterday's incident to be arrested. Delhi Police handling the matter as per law and any communal disharmony not tolerated."

For his part, Upadhyay said he was not responsible for the sloganeering. Sources said the Delhi Police chief asked officials to take strict action as per law.

Earlier in the day, Delhi Police registered an FIR under Section 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups and religions). Hundreds of people attended the protest at Jantar Mantar on Sunday. There are pictures of children holding posters saying *Aathank k wajah se Islam Vinash k Kagaar Par* (Islam at the brink of annihilation due to terrorism).

CODE RED

UN report predicts heat waves, more rain in India

RICHA SHARMA @ New Delhi

INTENSE heat waves, cyclones, glacial lake bursts, floods and landslides, increased precipitation, glacial melt and ocean warming could impact India in a big way the coming years, warned the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its report released on Monday.

The report said heat waves and humid heat stress will be more intense and frequent during the 21st century in India and both annual and summer monsoon precipitation will increase during the 21st century, with enhanced inter-annual variability.

The surface Indian Ocean, it said, has warmed faster than the global average. "This will further intensify the cyclones, extreme rains, and sea level rise along the coast of India. We already see a 50% increase in Arabian Sea cyclones and a three-fold rise in extreme rains causing floods," said Roxy Mathew Koll, Senior Scientist, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology & Lead Author of the IPCC's Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate.

The report projected a increase in annual mean precipitation, adding it will be more severe over south India. On the southwest coast, rainfall could increase by around 20%, relative to 1850-1900. In the event of 4°C warming, India could see about 40% increase in precipitation annually.

P7,9

Hot extremes

India is expected to see an increase in frequency and severity of hot extremes. There are likely to be 90 to 120 days in a year with max temperatures above 35°C in case of 1.5 to 2°C warming and over 180 days in case of 4°C warming

Tragedy at Bidadi movie shoot: Fight master electrocuted

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IN an incident that again tragically highlighted the negligence of film production units, especially while shooting fight sequences, in the country, a fight master was electrocuted when he was enacting a sequence right under a high-tension wire near Bidadi in Ramanagara district on Monday afternoon.

A steel rope that was tied to a crane, which was being used in the shoot, came in contact with the high-tension line on top and a water puddle on the ground, electrocuting the 35-year-old fight master, **Vivek**, at Joganahalli.

The sequence for the film, Love You, Rachchu, was being shot allegedly without police permission.

The police, who filed a suo motu case of death due to negligence, detained film director Shankar Raj, stunt director Vinod, property owner Puttaraju, and crane driver Madesh Muniyappa.

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